

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08  
EA-12 FRB-01 INR-10 IO-14 NEA-10 NSAE-00 ICA-20  
OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00  
OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 MEEO-01 OIC-02 L-03 /134 W  
-----010250 220427Z /73

R 211129Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0429

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 12991

USOECD

PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR MARGARET MCKENNA, LABOR FOR  
ALEXIS HERMAN, BLACKMAN, AVERY AND METCALF

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, OECD  
SUBJECT: WORKING PARTY ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE  
ECONOMY, APRIL 17-19  
REF: MAS/WP-6(77)

SUMMARY: WP-6 ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY MET  
APRIL 17-19 TO CONSIDER FINAL REPORT AND DISCUSS  
FUTURE WORK. FOLLOWING U.S. LEAD MANY DELS EXPRESSED  
DISAPPOINTMENT WITH BOTH TONE AND SUBSTANCE OF VARIOUS  
CHAPTERS OF THE REPORT WHICH ASSUMED A MALE/FEMALE RELA-  
TIONSHIP WHICH MANY DELS (INCLUDING U.S.) CONSIDERED  
OUTDATED. FOR EXAMPLE, CHILD CARE CHAPTER REFERRED TO  
"MOTHERS" RATHER THAN "PARENTS." CHAPTER ON LABOR FORCE  
PARTICIPATION RATES ANALYZED MOTIVES IN WAY WHICH OVER-  
EMPHASIZED WOMEN'S MARITAL STATUS AND PRESUMED DEPEND-  
ENCE ON HUSBAND, AS OPPOSED TO MORE GENERAL ECONOMIC  
CONSIDERATIONS. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (EEO) SEC-  
TION, IN PARTICULAR, WAS FELT TO CONTAIN OUTDATED INFOR-  
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MATION. SECRETARIAT WILL REVISE REPORT ON BASIS OF  
COMMENTS MADE AT MEETING PLUS WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS PROM-  
ISED BY SEVERAL DELS. EXTENDED BUREAU OF WP MAY MEET TO  
CONSIDER FINAL DRAFT BEFORE ITS TRANSMITTAL TO OCTOBER,  
1978 MEETING OF THE MANPOWER AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COM-  
MITTEE (MSAC). WP AGREED TO RECOMMEND TO THE MSAC  
EXTENDING THE WP'S MANDATE UNTIL OCTOBER, 1980. U.S.

DEL WAS HEADED BY ALEXIS M. HERMAN, DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S BUREAU, DOL, ACCOMPANIED BY MARGARET MCKENNA, DEPUTY COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT, BARBARA GOOD, STATE, AND ROSALIND THOMAS, DOL. END SUMMARY

1. PARTICIPANTS FROM 20 MEMBER-COUNTRIES ATTENDED APRIL 17-19 MEETING OF WP-6 ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY. ON THE 17TH, U.S. DELEGATION LUNCHEON WITH AMB SALZMAN. DURING THAT TIME U.S. DEL INFORMED AMB OF ITS SERIOUS MISGIVINGS OF BOTH TONE AND SUBSTANCE OF PORTIONS OF SECRETARIAT REPORT, PARTICULARLY THE CHAPTER ON EQUAL EMPLOYMENT FOR WHICH U.S. DEL SENT TWO ADDENDUMS. LATE ARRIVAL OF DOCUMENT IN WASHINGTON AND THE UNAVAILABILITY OF STAFF RESOURCES TO INCORPORATE REVISIONS IN TIMELY FASHION (THERE IS ONLY ONE PROFESSIONAL AND ONE SECRETARY FOR THE WORK OF THIS WP) PREVENTED SECRETARIAT FROM UPDATING U.S. INITIATIVES IN THIS AREA. HOWEVER, ONE OF TWO ADDENDUMS SUBMITTED BY THE U.S. WAS ADDED TO THE REPORT. THE U.S. WILL NOW PROVIDE REVISED COMMENTS FOR INCLUSION IN A NEW EEO CHAPTER WHICH THE SECRETARIAT HAS AGREED TO REWRITE.

2. AMB SALZMAN TOGETHER WITH US DEL MET WITH MSAC ACTING HEAD DYMOND TO WHOM AMB CLARIFIED OUR POSITION, STATING INTER ALIA THAT U.S.

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DELEGATION, REFLECTING THE HIGHEST AUTHORITIES WITHIN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT (WHITE HOUSE, STATE, LABOR) FOUND THE REPORT OBJECTIONABLE IN PART IN TERMS OF SUBSTANCE AND TONE, AND THAT ADEQUATE RESOURCES SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE WP. DYMOND OFFERED TO COOPERATE IN ADDING ANY SPECIFIC CHANGES U.S. DEL WISHED TO MAKE.

3. THE U.S. WAS JOINED BY OTHER DELEGATIONS IN EXPRESSING THEIR CONCERN WITH OBJECTIONABLE PARTS OF THE REPORT. THESE CONCERN, HOWEVER, WERE EXPRESSED IN THE CONTEXT THAT WP HAD NOT MET FOR ONE YEAR AND A HALF TO REVIEW THE WORK IN PROGRESS. U.S. AND OTHER DELEGATIONS ADVISED THAT WHILE RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUES AND VALUE OF THE WORK THAT HAD BEEN DONE, THEY AGREED TO SEND UPDATED COMMENTS AND NEEDED REVISIONS ON VARIOUS CHAPTERS. SECRETARIAT WILL REVISE THE REPORT BASED ON COMMENTS MADE DURING THE MEETING AND WILL INCORPORATE WRITTEN REVISIONS PROVIDED BY MEMBER COUNTRIES. DYMOND PROPOSED THAT THE DRAFT COULD POSSIBLY BE REVIEWED BY THE EXTENDED BUREAU BEFORE THE REPORT IS SUBMITTED TO THE MANPOWER AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING IN OCTOBER.

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4. APART FROM FINAL REPORT OTHER IMPORTANT ITEM OF BUSINESS FOR THE WP WAS DISCUSSION OF ITS CONTINUED MANDATE AND THE RELATED ISSUE OF ITS PRESENT INADEQUATE STAFF RESOURCES. VIRTUALLY ALL DELEGATES SUPPORTED U.S. LEAD IN 1) THE NEED FOR CONTINUATION OF THE LIFE OF THE WP, 2) ADDITIONAL STAFF (ECONOMIST, STATISTICIAN, CONSULTANTS) AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES, AND 3) THE WORK REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ADDITIONAL STAFF, E.G. MONITORING AND COORDINATING RELEVANT WORK BEING DONE ELSEWHERE WITHIN OECD AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA. THE WP AGREED TO RECOMMEND TO MSAC EXTENDING LIFE OF WP TO OCTOBER, 1980. DRAFT MANDATE APPROVED BY WP WILL BE TRANSMITTED BY SEPTEL.

SALZMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 21 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014